

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

During a multiple discharges operation, a micro computer changes a discharge period of each discharge in accordance with a pressure transition in a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine. Thus, the energy amount consumed at each discharge of the multiple discharges operation is suppressed toward the minimum requirement, and the consumption of energy accumulated in the ignition device is appropriately controlled. As a result, discharge energy is efficiently consumed at the multiple discharges, thereby compacting the ignition device. Further, the number of multiple discharges is not restricted.